

Pension Application for Nicholas Williamson

W.22622 (Widow: Elizabeth) Married May 20, 1784, Nicholas died January 11, 1832.

This deposition gives the most details of the soldier's service.

State of New York

Rockland County SS.

On this eleventh day of September 1832 personally appeared before me Peter T. Stephens, a Justice of the Peace, in and for said County Tunis Tallman, a resident of the town of Clarkstown, in said County, aged 89 years who being first duly sworn according to law, doth depose and say, that he was well acquainted with Nicholas Williamson, (who had for his wife Elizabeth Meyers, his present Widow), during the Revolutionary War, and knows that the said Nicholas Williamson did belong to and serve in a Company whereof, Avery Smith was Capt. In Coln A. Hawkes Hay's regiment during a great part of said War of which company this deponent was Ensign until 1778 and first Lieutenant until the Close of the said War.

That in the yearly part of the month of July in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy six he believes it was prior to the middle of said month, the British having sailed up the Hudson River and anchored in the Tappan and Haverstraw Bays, the Militia composing Coln Hayes regiment was ordered out to guard along the said river to prevent their landing to plunder and distress the Inhabitants and Capt Smith with his company of which the said Williamson was one, was stationed to guard along the shore at Nyack, and remained on duty until the British sailed down said river, which he believes was not less than one month and after they had sailed away the men that yet remained in the said company (as many had enlisted in the five months service) as dismissed to be ready at a minuts [minutes] warning, and in a few day she believes not more than a week they returned again and the men remaining in Capt. Smith's company was again called upon to guard along the shore at Nyack, a guard was kept up during the time they remained which was for some time, and the Britis [British] continuing to remain ins aid bays for some time and then sail away and in a short time to return, and so continuing to do until late in the fall of said year or beginning of the winter until for fear of the Ice inclosing them they returned to New York to state the exact time the said Nicholas Williamson served at each engagement during said year he is unable to say, as each tour consisted of more of less time but he is confident that from the time the British first came up said river until their final departure for the winter, he served not less than two months as a private.

That in the latter part of the winter or early in the spring of the year 1777, the men composen [composing] Capt Smith company was divided into four classes that one fourth part thereof night guard for a time that the domestic concerns might be attended to in which manner the said company did serve during said year, in tours of one and two weeks at a time in which the said Nicholas Williamson died serve, performing his full part of duty, a guarding along the river at Nyack (as the British came up said river and occupied their former stations, in manner aforesaid) at

Clarkstown, at Tappantown, and other places as they from time to time received orders, and served not less than two months as Private.

That on the first of April 1778 the said Nicholas Williamson enlisted at Nyack, for nine months, as private in a company where of John Bell was Capt and this deponent first Lieutenant, in Coln Graham's regiment, and remained some time after enlistment, a guarding along the river at Nyack, then crossed the river and marched to the White Plains, an lay there sometime in company with some Continental troops, then, after receiving orders, re-crossed the river and marched to the new Bridge, near Hackensack, and lay there until the British Army came to that place, when they retreated and went to Paramus, where they encamped for some time, then returned and marched to Tappan Town, where they remained until the first of January 1779, when the term of enlistment expired, they were discharged.

That in the year 1779 the said Nicholas Williamson again served under the said Capt Smith, this deponent being then first Lieutenant of said company, and served in tours as in the year 1777, a guarding along the river at Nyack, at Clarkstown, and Tappan town, and often in the State of New Jersey, as far down as the Liberty pole, and at Haverstraw the British being in possession of Stony Point a great part of said year and served not less than two months in tours as aforesaid as a private during said year.

That in the year 1780 the said Nicholas Williamson served in Capt Smith's company as a private in duty and tours as aforesaid and served not less than two months.

That in the year 1781 the said Nicholas Williamson served in Capt Smith's Company in duty stations and tours as aforesaid and served not less than one month as a private.

That in the year 1782 there was some guard duty done until September when News arrived that it was likely that Peace would be made but how much was performed by the said Williamson he is unable to say as after the taking of Lord Cornwallices [Cornwallis's] Army the British and the American Tories was quite peaceable and very little need [needed] to keep a guard and therefore cannot say how much duty was done by the said Williamson. And this deponent doth further depose and say, that in setting forth the time the said Williamson served during the said War, except his enlistment for nine months in the year 1778, as aforesaid, he is unable to state the commencement or end of each tour, the men composing said company in the year 1776 served near the whole time and with very short Intermissions and it might be considered as one tour of duty and after that year until the Close of the war, each man served full one fourth of the time during the time said river was navigable exclusive of considerable duty which was performed during the winter until after the winter of 1779 & 80, and as the men did not serve in regular turns, often changing to suit their domestick [domestic] concerns, but doth verily believe, that had a record been kept of all the actual duty performed by the said Williamson, it would far exceed the time by him set forth especially in the first four years of said war, that is until the year 1780. (Signed with his mark) Tunis Tallman

Sworn to and subscribed the day and yea aforesaid before me. Peter L.
Stephens Justice.